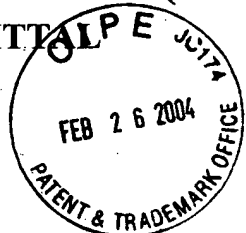


Image 2874 RCE

**REQUEST  
FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL**

**MAIL STOP RCE**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000,  
provides for continued examination of an utility or  
plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995

Application Number	09/973,015
Confirmation Number	5104
Filing Date	October 10, 2001
First Named Inventor	Nicholas V. NECHITAILO
Group Art Unit	2874
Examiner Name	Ellen E. Kim
Matter Number	A7909
Title	METHOD AND APPARATUS TO REDUCE VARIATION OF EXCESS FIBER LENGTH IN BUFFER TUBES OF FIBER OPTIC CABLES

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

**1. SUBMISSION REQUIRED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

- a. ☐ Previously submitted
  - i. ☐ Please enter and consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
  - iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b. ☒ Enclosed
  - i. ☐ Amendment/Reply
  - ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
  - iii. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (IDS)
  - iv. ☐ Petition for Extension of Time
  - v. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**2. MISCELLANEOUS**

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months
- b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**3. FEES**

A check for the RCE statutory fee of \$770.00 is attached. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

**CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS**

Direct all correspondence to the address for SUGHRUE MION, PLLC filed under the Customer Number listed below:

02/27/2004 CNGUYEN 00000110 09973015  
01 FC:1801 770.00 OP  
WASHINGTON OFFICE  
**23373**  
CUSTOMER NUMBER

**SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY**

Name Brian W. Hannon Registration No. 32,778  
Signature  Date February 26, 2004